



Maintenance

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STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION BULLETIN

Water is a precious resource in California. The environmental quality of our creeks, streams, lakes, reservoirs, groundwater, and oceans needs to be safeguarded. Caltrans has developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce the potential for discharge of pollutants to our waters.

Oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle and equipment fluids from maintenance facility shop activities have the potential to cause water pollution. Proper implementation of the storm water pollution prevention BMPs for handling vehicle and equipment fluids can help keep California waters clean and healthy.

Fluid Removal

Protecting our environment begins with pollution prevention. Procedures to properly collect, store, and dispose of vehicle fluids are needed to prevent equipment fluids from polluting storm water or entering the storm drainage system.



Secondary containment for drum storage

BMPs for vehicle fluid removal include:

- Drain fluids through a funnel adapter to a proper container, if possible. Transfer the contents to designated vehicle waste fluid storage barrels or tanks as soon as possible.
- If using a proper container is not feasible, drain the fluid into a drip pan and immediately transfer the fluid to the designated waste storage container. The use of a larger drip pan under the primary drain pan is recommended to catch any spilled fluids.
- Remove fluids from wrecked vehicles as soon as possible.
- If fluid removal is done outdoors, use secondary containment, such as a drip pan, for spills.
- Fasten or secure lids on containers after use.
- Place used oil filters in a designated container with secure lid.

Spill Control

Most shop area spills are minor and involve small quantities. Maintain an adequate supply of spill cleanup material in the vehicle maintenance/repair area. When a spill occurs, clean it up immediately and dispose of the used cleanup material properly. Repair leaking equipment and clean up leaks promptly.

Used Oil Handling

Used oil constitutes the largest volume of waste fluids managed at most maintenance facilities. Used oil is classified as a hazardous waste in California, although recycling it in conformance with State regulations removes it from the hazardous waste classification.

Even so, used oil must be handled following the requirements for hazardous waste generators. To maximize recycling and minimize waste, it is important not to mix any other waste with used oil. Separate containers must be used for each type of waste fluid. Contact your District HazMat Manager for local regulations that apply to your maintenance facility.

Used Oil Recycling

Since recycled oil is reused rather than disposed of, it reduces the amount of oil that can potentially pollute storm water. BMPs for recycling used oil, which includes uncontaminated used crankcase oil and waste equipment oil, are as follows:

- Locate the used oil and used oil filter containers near shop work areas and away from storm drain inlets or channels.
- For liquid waste stored outside, be sure it is covered and has secondary containment.
- Clearly label all containers as "Used Oil" or "Used Oil Filters" with the starting accumulation date.
- Store used oil filters no longer than one year.

State-of-the-art system that pumps used oil directly from the vehicle to the waste oil container



This bulletin is published monthly by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to support the Caltrans maintenance staff in its efforts to achieve and maintain compliance with storm water pollution prevention regulatory requirements.

Storm Water Practices for Vehicle and Equipment Fluids

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Maintenance Manual, Chapter C-6, or from your District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator. Questions or comments may be directed to Jack Broadbent, Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator, (916) 653-0361

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